

2004 FFA Hall of Fame Inductee

Bernie L. Staller

Bernie L. Staller is the Chief Operating Officer of the National FFA Organization and FFA Foundation. Mr. Staller is an Indiana native, graduated from Fort Atkinson Senior High School in 1961. Staller, an honors graduate from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, holds a Bachelor and Masters degree. He served as agribusiness instructor and FFA Advisor at Janesville-Parker High School for eleven years beginning in 1966. Enrollment increased and faculty expanded during his tenure.

Staller joined the National FFA Foundation as the Assistant Executive Director in July of 1977 and became Executive Director on April 1, 1979. He assumed his responsibilities as Chief Operating Officer for both the National FFA Organization and FFA Foundation on March 18, 1991.

Mr. Staller assisted to end a 15-year decline in national FFA membership and stabilized the organization's financial standing while Increasing efficiency and broadening the range of services provided. Mr. Staller also managed the successful relocation of national FFA business operations from Alexandria, Va., to Indianapolis in 1998.

Relocation of the national FFA convention to Louisville, Ky., also took place during his tenure after the 51,000-person gathering outgrew its location in Kansas City, Mo., leading to fiscal savings and increased service levels.

Mr. Staller, along with the National FFA Sponsor's Board, ran a successful \$5.2 million capital campaign for and construction of a new National FFA Center in Indianapolis in 1998. While working with the National FFA Foundation Mr. Staller assisted to raise more than \$75 million in support of FFA and agricultural education.

Mr. Staller retired in the fall of 2004 after 37 years of service to agriculture education and FFA. He is married to the former Martha Miller of Whitewater, Wisconsin and are the parents of two grown children.